The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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PUBLIC PRESS URGES "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW

Washington, March 31.—The public press quickly recognized the importance of the United States supreme court's declaration, in upholding the Adamson eight-hour law—after the railroad employes had won—that congress has the right to pass legislation prohibiting strikes that would affect interstate commerce.

The following editorial excerpts are a few of the many received at A. F. of L. headquarters and indicate that labor must be alert against compulsory arbitration and other proposed "can't-strike" legislation which will receive the support of a large section of the public press:

New York Times—It would seem that public rights ought to be independent of such fortuitous matters as wage bargains.

New York World—Protest or no protest, the strike bludgeon has fallen from the hands of men engaged in this branch of public service.

New York Sun—The decision upholding the Adamson law has made possible, for the first time in the history of this country, the compulsory arbitration of labor disputes which may seriously and directly jeopardize the movement of interstate traffic.

Boston Globe—Henceforth private right is subordinate to the great public right to uninterrupted railroad movement.

Philadelphia North American—While gaining rich award organized labor confronts a decree of the highest court that in future disputes of this kind arbitration will be compulsory.

Chicago Tribune—In his opinion upholding the Adamson law the chief justice of the United States supreme court gave congress a strong hint, which, it is hoped, will be acted on without delay.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat—Never before has such a sweeping power of the government in time of peace been asserted by a court.

Indianapolis Star—Congress should proceed at once to erect a real structure on the foundation the supreme court has laid in the Adamson law decision.

Cincinnati Enquirer—It is a safe surmise that the supreme court, when the occasion arises, will act in favor of the always overlooked, but most important party to these transactions, the American public.

Baltimore Sun—The trainmen and their friends are quite willing to accept the eight-hour day and increased wages, but to be compelled to abandon the divine right of striking seems to savor to them of the despotism of Russia.

Pittsburg Dispatch—The supreme court did more than uphold the Adamson law. It declared the public interests supreme and the power of the government to enforce compulsory arbitration in disputes on public utilities.

Milwaukee Journal—There should be no sympathy for any senator or congressman who does not do his duty in making impossible the recurrence at any future time of such threat to the nation.

VICTIMIZATION UPHELD.

Boston, March 31.—A local court upholds the Western Union Telegraph company in its discharge of employes because of union affiliation, a state law to the contrary notwithstanding. When these men were discharged, the Commercial Telegraphers' union secured the mediation services of the federal and state departments of labor, who were assured by President Carlton of the Western Union that the men's statement was true, that his spotters had reported the men were members of the union and that they were discharged on that account.

On this acknowledgement the union started suit in the municipal court, but Judge Murray ordered the defendant dismissed. The court cited the decision of the United States supreme court in the case of Coppage versus Kansas, in which it was held that a railroad company has the right to discharge for any reason or no reason.

ACTORS' PICKETS ARRESTED.

St. Louis, Mo., March 31.—Over a score of actors' pickets, members of the White Rats Actors' union, have been arrested by local police, who are charged by trade unionists with making no pretense of hiding their favoritism to managers. The strike in this city is a general movement of organized vaudeville actors to secure better working conditions and arbitration machinery. President Mountford of the White Rats Actors' union says:

"We want an agreement with the managers which will be binding—and, after 16 years' experience, the only method that we can see, that would make the decision of an arbitration board final and enforcible, and the only power that would make an agreement binding (that we can discover) is the union shop."

Strikes are on in about 35 cities.

OFFICIALS CAN'T AID CRIME.

San Francisco, March 31.—Federal Judge Morrow has dismissed two Chinamen who were charged with attempting to violate the immigration laws. It was shown that the Chinks tried to bribe customs inspectors who pretended to fall into the scheme until they secured enough evidence to convict.

In dismissing the defendants, Judge Morrow said: "Where the officers of the law had incited the party to commit the crime charged, and lured him on to its consummation, the law will not authorize a verdict of guilty."

DEFEAT COMPENSATION BILL.

Jefferson City, Mo., March 31.—Organized labor has again lost its fight for a workmen's compensation act, which passed the assembly, but was defeated in the senate. The proposed law was agreed to by a conference composed of employers and employes. Ambulance chasing lawyers were especially vigorous in their opposition to this legislation.

ABSENT CITIZENS MAY VOTE.

St. Paul, Minn., March 31.—The absent voters' bill has been signed by Governor Burnquist. The law provides that a voter absent from his regular voting precinct may mail his ballot if he has registered in his home precinct and has secured the proper certificate. Such ballots will be counted as though the voter had cast his ballot in person.

PAINTERS MAKE GAINS.

Springfield, Mo., March 31.—Employers have signed the new wage agreement of Painters' union No. 367. Rates are increased 5 cents an hour until April 1, 1918, when an additional 5 cents will be paid.

MACON MACHINISTS STRIKE.

Macon, Ga., March 31.—Machinists employed in automobile repair shops are on strike to enforce better conditions.

UNION OFFICIALS AID U. S. NAVY DEPARTMENT

Washington, March 31.—In a circular to all affiliates, Secretary-Treasurer Berres of the metal trades department, A. F. of L., calls attention to efforts being made by the navy department to secure skilled workers with the aid of the trade union movement. When men are wanted they are examined wherever they may be immediately, are given their rating, if they pass the examination, and will be paid the highest rate in their class for 10 days. After this date, if they fail to show sufficient skill to be entitled to the highest rate, they will be re-rated by the yard authorities and given the option of remaining at work at the lower rate or of quitting their employment.

After examination they are handed a voluntary contract, by which they agree, if their services are wanted, to remain at the yard for six months. If they sign the contract they are given proper credentials, upon the presentation of which at the yard they are to be reimbursed for their transportation and necessary Pullman accommodations from the point where they were examined to the yard.

Where the demand for men is not sufficiently urgent, the department announces that it will be glad to employ such men without reimbursing them for car or Pullman fare.

Secretary-Treasurer Berres suggests to officials of metal trades unions that they advise their members desiring employment in the navy yards or naval stations to communicate direct with him and the metal trades department will prepare a card index so that it will be in a position to get in touch with these unionists when the navy department issues a call for additional workers.

PROTEST PORTION OF DECISION.

Washington, March 31.—President Gompers and Secretary Morrison, of the A. F. of L., presented to Attorney General Gregory a protest in the name of the workers of this country against the supreme court going out of its way in matters not before the court and in dragging in compulsory arbitration when deciding the legality of the Adamson eight-hour law for railroad employes.

The supreme court, it was stated, by injecting into the law and argument a foreign matter, denial to workers of the right to quit work, pointed the way to those who wish to tie workers to their work in order to protect the supposed convenience of the public.

President Gompers called attention to the progressive fundamental declarations in both Mexico and Russia, countries which are passing through a period of danger and national stress, assuring to the workers of those countries the right to strike.

It was declared that this portion of the court's opinion belongs to the old reactionary despotism of Russia, and Mexico, and is out of harmony with the free institutions of the United States.

NEW ARKANSAS LABOR LAWS.

Little Rock, Ark., March 31.—The state legislature, recently adjourned, has passed the following legislation of interest to labor:

Compulsory school attendance law; mine inspectors empowered to enforce their orders and the state mining laws; increased appropriation for labor bureau; labor commissioner empowered to enforce labor laws and circuit judges required to charge grand juries for violation of same; industrial school for boys and girls; absent voters' law; boiler inspection law; creation of a free state employment bureau; street cars to be vestibuled during the winter months; marketing bureau and warehouse system created; state uniform text book law; child labor permits amended to conform with federal permits; constitutional amendment submitted that will create a system of rural credits; women permitted to vote in primary elections.

"THE LAND OF STRIKES."

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, March 31.—While employers in the United States are demanding legislation to prohibit strikes, "Liberty and Progress," an employers' publication in this city, has this to say—under the caption, "The Land of Strikes"—of Australian anti-strike laws:

"The record of 320 strikes which occurred in the commonwealth during 1916 constitutes a record of folly, selfishness and lack of patriotism which it would probably be difficult to equal in any other country in the world. The special irony of this deplorable total is that it should be possible in a land where parliaments and governments have been striving for years to perfect instruments and procedures of varied kind to bring about the industrial millenium. How far off that millenium still is the unhappy record tells us with its cold, callous truth."

HIGH BABE MORTALITY.

Washington, March 31.—In urging the observance of baby week the children's bureau of the federal department of labor says that approximately one in 10 of all the babies born in the United States die before completing 12 months of life.

"It was once thought," it is stated, "that a high infant death rate indicated a greater degree of vigor in the survivors. Now it is agreed that the conditions which destroy so many of the youngest lives of the community must also result in crippling and maiming many others and must react unfavorably upon the health of the entire community."

UNIONISM REDUCES HOURS.

Marysville, Cal., March 31.—In his annual report to the convention of the state building trades council Secretary Tveitmoe made this reference to the eight-hour victory of railroad employes, which was afterwards "legalized" by the United States supreme court:

"It has made the eight-hour day in American industry a certainty in the near future, without law and without government compulsion."

FULL CREW LAW REPEALED.

Trenton, N. J., March 31.—Governor Edge has signed the Roberts bill which repeals the full crew law and gives to the board of public utility commissioners power to determine what number of men shall be placed on passenger and freight trains to insure safe and efficient operation. Organized labor protested against this action which was rushed through the state legislature.

PROFITS FOR PAPER COMPANY.

New York, March 31.—The financial report of the Union Bag and Paper company for last year shows a profit of $2,832,277, or eight times more than that of the previous year.

RETAIL CLERKS RAISE WAGES.

Belleville, Ill., March 31.—Retail Clerks' union has signed an agreement with the Retail Merchants' association. About 250 employes will each receive one-fifth, or 20 per cent, wage increase.

Fugitive Slave Law Can Follow Supreme Court's Decision

Washington, March 31.—Fugitive slave laws can be established as the result of the United States supreme court's decision upholding by a 5 to 4 vote, the Adamson law for railroad employes, writes President Gompers in the American Federationist.

Under the caption "Five to Four On Slavery," the trade union executive says:

"The decision of the United States supreme court in the Adamson law, is extraordinary—in strange contrast to its usual careful observance of the etiquette of precedence. The court justifies the Adamson law by what it assumes would have happened had congress not enacted the law. The justification thus rests not upon principles but upon a hypothetical emergency.

"In addition to reversing its usual method of reasoning, the court emerges from the judicial domain, to lend a helping hand to legislation under consideration by congress. All of the forces of reaction united in the sixty-fourth congress to enact compulsory legislation to render workers helpless—by one form of law or other, to compel the toilers to compulsory service—involuntary servitude. They failed; congress considered the proposed legislation contrary to the spirit and the principles of our free republic.

"The supreme court attempts to influence the legislative situation by giving in advance an unsolicited opinion upon a question not before it—the constitutionality of compulsory arbitration:

> 'We are of opinion that the reasons stated conclusively establish that from the point of view of inherent power the act which is before us was clearly within the legislative power of congress to adopt, and that in substance and effect it amounted to an exertion of its authority under the circumstances disclosed to compulsory arbitrate the dispute between the parties by establishing, as to the subject matter of that dispute, a legislative standard of wages operative and binding as a matter of law upon the parties—a power none the less efficaciously exerted because exercised by direct legislative act instead of the enactment of other and appropriate means providing for the bringing about of such result.'

"Not satisfied with this gratuitous assistance and suggestion to the legislative representatives of reaction, the chief justice interpolated the following denial of the right to strike in public service:

> 'The right is necessarily surrendered when men are engaged in public service. They are comparable to soldiers in the ranks who, in the presence of the enemies of their country, may not desert.'

"This opinion of our chief justice is in vivid contrast to the declaration of the Russian government that replaced the old despotism; a declaration which Russia enunciated in a time of great stress, when the country was confronted by the exigencies of a world war. It is—

> 'Liberty of speech and of the press, freedom for alliances, unions, and strikes with the extension of these liberties to military officials within the limits admitted by military requirements.'

"That the court's decision is open to criticism is manifest from the fact that only five out of the nine justices concurred in it. The other four criticise it without reserve.

"The situation presents a very serious problem for the nation to consider. Five men out of our one hundred million have interpolated into our political institutions a principle destructive of the fundamentals of freedom. The supreme court has provided the way for establishment of industrial slavery and a fugitive slave law, and if followed out by the government or enacted into law the supreme court's decision by a vote of 5 to 4, the working people of the United States may be compelled to work at the command of their employers or go to prison.

"The court's decision came as an anti-climax too long delayed to be helpful in the purpose for which it was enacted. Has the court permanently abandoned the field of justice, to play in the hands of the employing class, the wealth-possessors of our country, by taking away from the working people the only effective power they possess to compel a decent regard for their rights, their freedom, the American standard of life?

"Would it not be well for the nation to consider the necessity of curbing the assumption of power by the supreme court rather than to supinely permit the court to 'curb' the freedom of the masses—the workers?"

SUGAR TERMS CLOAK FORCED INSURANCE

Chicago, March 31.—Editor Woll, of the American Photo Engraver, says compulsory insurance advocates use honey words and alluring terms when they talk of "health insurance" for workers who receive a wage of less than $100 a month.

"Of course, compulsory health insurance laws do not and cannot secure the wage earner against ill health," he says. "All that these proposals can do is to compel the poorer paid worker to place part of his wages in trust with the government and in return provide him with a small weekly benefit for a limited time and under conditions fixed by law.

"While the object of compulsory health insurance is commendable, the method and procedure of attaining this end are subversive of every principle of freedom of action and freedom of contract. The only real insurance against ill health of the worker is that sort of insurance which will remove or lessen the cause of illness. In reducing the hours of work, by increasing the workers' wages, by demanding proper and efficient sanitation of workshops and homes for the workers fit for habitation, a greater security is obtained the wage earner against ill health than can be had by any other proposal.

"After all is said and done, trade unionism is the only effective plan of insurance against ill health yet proposed. By this plan the desired end is obtained in dealing with the cause, rather than with the effects of ill health.

"The proposal of compulsory health insurance laws is a snare and delusion, establishes a false security, deals with effects and overlooks causes, restricts freedom of action and freedom of contract, introduces a vast and complex system of espionage, divides the workers into classes based on a wage earning capacity, humiliates the poorer wage earner and, above all else, fails to deal with the real problem facing the worker today."

CONTRACT WITH BRICKLAYERS.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 31.—President Bowen of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers' International union has negotiated an agreement with the Masons Contractors' association in this city.

It is hinted that the recent successes of this union in Los Angeles can be largely traced to the International Construction company, financed by the international union, under control of Vice President Duffy. When the union inaugurated this kind of warfare, as the result of attacks made upon it, anti-unionists ridiculed the plan, but it has been found that even anti-unionists have a high regard for trade union efficiency, and the company prospered as a result.

The Engstrum Construction company, one of the largest building concerns in this section, and antagonistic to unionism for the past dozen years, recently went into the hands of a receiver. The receiver is now doing business with officers of the Bricklayers' union.

IGNORE LAW BY STRIKING.

Denver, March 31.—The movement started by the Typographical union of this city to ignore the industrial commission law is growing, and organized workers are inaugurating wage movements without giving the commission the required 30 days' notice. Miners near Colorado Springs struck when wage increases were refused. They won in 48 hours. Denver press assistants employed in a large plant were refused a $1 weekly increase and they, also, went about their affairs in a manner befitting American workmen, instead of appealing to politicians to help them. They won in less than 24 hours.

Both movements are violations of the law and these unionists are subject to fine and imprisonment, but state authorities have ignored the strikes.

8 HOURS FOR FUR WORKERS.

New York, March 31.—With the signing of a union-shop agreement by Associated Fur Manufacturers, the eight-hour day has been secured in the local fur industry. When representatives of the International Fur Workers' union negotiated this agreement some dissatisfaction arose and the question was submitted to a referendum, which indorsed the contract by a large majority. Wages are increased in no case less than 10 per cent. About 5,000 employes are benefited. The independent shops, employing a like number of workers, recently signed a similar agreement.

PAINTERS WANT MORE.

Los Angeles, March 31.—Organized painters will demand a minimum wage of $4 a day, effective April 1. These workers show that their average wage is less than $12 a week, the lowest rate for painters in any California city.

SHOE WORKERS ADVANCE.

St. Louis, Mo., March 31.—The several locals of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union have increased wages 10 per cent.

EMPLOYERS' EDUCATION WILL NOT BENEFIT BOYS

San Francisco, March 31.—The suggestion that employers should control vocational education established by this state is opposed by the Labor Clarion, which says:

"If employers were to be given exclusive control over vocational education the student would be trained to fit in as a cog in the machinery without much regard for its effect upon his future. The idea kept in mind would be that of specialization because the specialist is profitable to the employer. That this would be the result of control by the employers has been amply demonstrated by their conduct in connection with the old trade apprenticeship system under which boys were kept at work where they were most profitable and given little or no opportunity to learn the trade.

"Such training is a handicap rather than a benefit to the boy, because it holds his education down to such narrow limitations that he is left absolutely at the mercy of his present employer owing to the fact that specialization has limited his opportunities for employment elsewhere. It requires no great development of reasoning powers for one to appreciate that while this condition of affairs is profitable to the employer, it is detrimental alike to the pupil and society as a whole. It is nonsensical to talk of placing vocational training schools in the hands of employers.

"The predominant consensus of opinion among those who have given the question careful and unbiased consideration, is that such schools should be democratically managed under the direction of the regularly established educational authorities, advised by committees of employers and employes."

WANT A "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW.

Sacramento, Cal., March 31.—President Koster of the San Francisco chamber of commerce wants the state legislature to pass a law against railroad strikes and is attempting to create the impression that railroads are liable to lock out its employes.

This is the smooth way the anti-unionist presented the question at a hearing before the state assembly public utilities committee:

"It is necessary in time of controversy to put a restraining hand on the shoulder of each party to the controversy until the issue has had time to adjust itself."

Trade unionists opposed the "can't-strike" plan and declared that regardless of the law they would exercise their right to quit, either singly or collectively when mediation and arbitration fail.

The proposed statute is similar to the Canadian industrial disputes act, and in reply to the claim that this law is successful, Paul Scharrenberg, secretary of the California State Federation of Labor, said:

"We were told by the American ship owners that our demands would be granted if we could obtain the same conditions on the Canadian side, so that they would not be subjected to unfair competition. So we organized a union of the Canadian sailors, submitted our demands to a board of conciliation under the law and were finally granted everything we asked. But, lo and behold, the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company, most powerful of the concerns with which we were dealing, calmly refused to comply with the recommendations of the board and we found that the company had taken advantage of the four months of investigation to supply itself with men to take the place of its employes if they decided to go on strike."

DIDN'T WEAKEN LABOR LAW.

Salt Lake City, March 31.—The state legislature refused to accept an amendment to the workmen's compensation law which would permit employers of alien labor to enjoy a maximum liability of less than $1,000 where these employes sustained fatal injuries.

The plan was urged by corporations, but the lawmakers refused to encourage the displacement of citizens.

PHOTO ENGRAVERS GAIN.

Washington, March 31.—Photo Engravers' union No. 17 has secured a two-year contract with employers. Until July 1 next year rates will be $26 a week, and $27 from then until January 1, 1918. The 48-hour week is agreed to, with time and one-half for first four hours, double time for second four hours and triple time for third four hours of overtime.

PASS COMPENSATION ACT.

Dover, Del., March 31.—The state legislature has passed a compensation law that excludes farmers and employers of less than five persons. An attempt was made to exempt Kent and Sussex counties, but the plan failed.

STOCK PLAN RIDDLED BY UNION OFFICIAL

Boston, March 31.—The plan of the A. E. Nettleton company, Syracuse shoe manufacturers, to sell stock to their unorganized employes is riddled by Editor Baine of the Shoe Workers' Journal.

The trade unionist subjects the scheme to a financial analysis and shows that it is the company's purpose to keep employes away from the Boot and Shoe Workers' union.

The company has issued $100,000 of "second preferred" stock to be divided between 700 employes. If every employe subscribed each one would receive $140 in stock to be sold on the basis of $1 and $2 a week. If an employe wanted $500 in stock at $2 a week, he would be nearly five years paying for it, or nearly four years if the interest was credited to his purchase. At the end of four years he would own $500 worth of stock, which, at the maximum, would, at 9 per cent, pay him $45 a year.

"In the meantime," says Editor Baine, "during the four years, his employment is under the wages and conditions of labor fixed absolutely by the firm and in which the wage earner has no voice.

"Shoe workers have obtained dividends from their investments in dues in the Boot and Shoe Workers' union in all sorts of percentages. For instance, if a member receives an advance of $3 a week, or $150 a year, and the dues are $12, he has received a dividend of 1,152 per cent.

"But the Nettleton employes are not paying the 25 cents to the Boot and Shoe Workers' union, and the Nettleton company does not wish them to. It would prefer to pay them 22 cents a week in the form of a stock dividend, which incidentally permits the Nettleton company to fix all questions of wages and conditions of labor. We are indebted to the Nettleton company for furnishing us the basis of this clear illustration of the unwisdom of the wage earner undertaking to become an owner in the business of his employer, when the real purpose is to give him petty dividends of capital instead of real dividends in the form of wages."

CARPENTERS MAKE MANY GAINS

Indianapolis, March 31.—General Secretary Duffy of the Brotherhood of Carpenters reports the following recent wage increases, per hour and day, by locals of this craft:

Syracuse, from 50 to 55 cents per hour; Salem, N. J., 33 1-3 to 40 cents; Albuquerque, N. M., 56 1-4 to 62 1-2 cents; New Rochelle, N. Y., 60 to 65 cents; Rome, N. Y., 45 to 55 cents; Ashland, Ky., 40 to 45 cents; Saginaw, Mich., 45 to 55 cents; Lockport, N. Y., 45 to 50 cents; Wichita Falls, Tex., 50 to 56 1-4 cents; Hot Springs, Ark., 50 to 60 cents; Tulsa, Okla., 56 1-4 to 62 1-2 cents; Parsons, Kan., 45 to 50 cents; Paris, Tex., 45 to 50 cents; Greenville, Tex., 37 1-2 to 45 cents; San Angelo, Tex., 45 to 50 cents; Marysville, Cal., from $4.50 to $5 a day with Saturday half holiday; Denison, Tex., $4 to $4.60 a day; San Francisco, $5 to $5.50 for outside carpenters; Daytona, Fla., $3.50 to $4; Atlantic City, N. J., $4 to $4.50.

TEAMSTERS RAISE WAGES.

East Liverpool, Ohio, March 31.—Teamsters and Chauffeurs' union has raised wages from $2.50 to $3 a day without a strike, except in the case of the North American Manufacturing company. Legislation was immediately started in the city council to secure money to meet the new scale.

Scranton, Pa., March 31.—Teamsters' union has signed a two-year union shop agreement with employers in the general teaming business. Wages for two-horse teams is $17 for a week of six days and nine hours a day; chauffeurs on one and one-half ton trucks, $19 a week. Sunday work is abolished, with double time for holidays and time and one-half for overtime.

CITY EMPLOYES' WAGES RAISED.

Philadelphia, March 31.—The common council finance committee has approved salary increases for 2,500 city employes who are paid less than $1,000 a year. The increase for laborers range from 25 cents to 50 cents a day. It is stated that the committee's action is equivalent to the granting of the increases.

San Francisco, March 31.—The board of works has granted the request of its 400 laborers for wage increases and has asked the supervisors to appropriate $12,000 that rates may be increased from $3 to $3.50 a day during the fiscal year.

TAILORS REDUCE HOURS

Washington, March 31.—United Garment Workers' union No. 11 has secured the 48-hour week and increased wages as the result of conferences with employers.

PAPER WORKERS STRIKE.

Otsego, Mich., March 31.—Over 600 employes of the Bardeen Paper company suspended work to enforce a 25 per cent wage increase.

COURT'S INJUNCTION IS USED IN BOYCOTT

Memphis, Tenn., March 31.—When striking retail clerks and their sympathizers were permanently enjoined from going on the premises of anti-union stores, the managers of these concerns never dreamed that the injunction writ would be used most effectively by alert workers, who have prepared the following statement and scattered it broadcast throughout the city:

"An injunction has been obtained by the Bry-Block Mercantile company and some 60 other retail merchants, enjoining union men, their friends and sympathizers from coming on or about their premises.

"Union labor desires to live up both to the letter and spirit of this injunction. Not only do we intend to obey this injunction, but we desire to avoid the very appearance of evil. We are not certain, but we are of the opinion that any union man going in any of these stores for any purpose is in contempt of chancery court. The punishment for contempt is 10 days in jail and a $50 fine. Therefore, stay away from the Bry-Block Mercantile company and all other stores displaying the injunction card. Do not go on their premises for any purpose. Do not go about their premises. Let them alone. These merchants do not want you about. They have enjoined you from coming about their premises. Make them happy by staying away and keeping your family away from their stores. If it is necessary for you to buy goods, there are stores in Memphis from which you are not enjoined."

STOVE MOUNTERS GAIN.

Detroit, March 31.—After a six weeks' strike the Detroit Stove Works has signed an agreement with Stove Mounters' union No. 1 that no member of that organization shall be discriminated against. The strike started when workers were discharged because they joined the union.

Cleveland, March 31.—Three shops of the American Stove company have signed agreements with the Stove Mounters' union. Fifty hours will constitute a week's work, with 55 hours' pay for day workers. Wages are advanced 5 per cent in piece prices with the understanding that no employe shall earn less in nine hours than he formerly did in 10 hours. Overtime will be paid, shop committees recognized, no discrimination because of union affiliation, and employes who were discharged shall be reinstated. The settlement affects about 400 workers, who secured these gains as a result of an organizing campaign and a two days' strike.

Quincy, Ill., March 31.—Organized stove mounters in this city have secured a one-year agreement and a 10 per cent wage increase.

RUSSIAN WORKERS GREETED.

Washington, March 31.—When news reached this country that the Russian empire had been democratized, President Gompers, on behalf of American labor, sent the following cablegram to N. S. Chekheiji, Petrograd, leader of the labor group in the Russian duma:

"We rejoice with Russia's workers in their newly achieved liberty. The splendid proclamation of your provisional government, declaring for free speech and press, and the right of workers to organize, and if necessary, to strike for their rights, guarantees to Russia's workers opportunity for freedom and progress and assures the new Russia her future greater glory. International labor welcomes the triumph of freedom and the downfall of despotism throughout the world."

WOMEN'S WAGES TOO LOW.

Milwaukee, March 31.—In an address before the Citizenship Study club Clinton M. Barr declared that the wages paid 1,000,000 American women constantly keeps them at the bread line standard of existence, is as destructive as war and is far less defensible.

"The girl without a home, who manages to lead a decent life on $6 a week," said the speaker, "as must hundreds of Milwaukee girls, deserves the Victoria cross, usually granted for unusual valor in front of the trenches. The greatest retailer in the world has a thousand stores; employs 100,000 girls at from $3 to $7 a week, with few being paid the latter figure. Last year they rang up on his cash registers a total of $87,000,000."

LABOR FORCED SHOW OF HANDS.

Denver, March 31.—Although labor did not succeed in securing the repeal of Colorado's "can't-strike" law, its friends forced a show of hands by placing senate and house members on record, to be used at the next election. In the senate the vote against repeal was 28 to 4, with three dodging. The house vote was 33 to 30 against repeal with two dodging.

Trade unionists have already started their campaign for the next election of state legislators who believe in American freedom. In the meantime the organized workers do not propose to permit any statute to interfere with their right to labor or not to labor.

STEEL TRUST'S HUGH PROFITS.

New York, March 31.—The United States steel corporation (the trust) made a profit last year nearly five times greater than in 1915. The figures are: For 1916, $301,835,584; for 1915, $44,260,274. This means a net income of nearly $40 on each share of common stock.

The volume of business done by all of the companies in the corporation during the year, as represented by their combined gross sales and earnings, amounted to $1,231,473,779, compared with $726,683,589 in the preceding year.

TO URGE REAL CONSERVATION.

Washington, March 31.—The council of national defense, in dividing the seven members of its advisory commission, made Samuel Gompers chairman of the committee on labor for the conservation and welfare of workers, the work of the committee to be furthered whether in peace or war.

On invitation of Mr. Gompers a large number of men and women—workmen, employers, doctors and other scientists—are to meet Monday, April 2, to discuss plans.

COAL MINERS WANT MORE.

Columbus, Ohio, March 31.—Representatives of Ohio miners and operators have agreed to co-operate to bring about a joint meeting of miners and operators of the central competitive fields, comprising Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and western Pennsylvania, for the purpose of discussing miners' wage demands.

UTAH UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Salt Lake City, March 31.—Officers of the Utah State Federation of Labor have issued a call for the thirteenth annual convention to be held in this city beginning May 14.

LAW MAKERS FAVOR JOINT BARGAINING

St. Paul, Minn., March 31.—Bargaining between employer and employe is recommended by a sub-committee of the house committee on labor in a report on last year's strike in the iron ore section of this state.

The strikers were unorganized when they suspended work to correct conditions forced upon them by the steel trust's subsidiaries. Later a so-called "revolutionary union" took charge of affairs and the strike was marked by much disorder. The steel trust's usual thug tactics prevailed.

The committee made two reports, the minority more extended than the majority, but both agreed that the failure of the companies to recognize collective bargaining was responsible for the strike.

The majority report says:

"Your committee believes that the principle of collective bargaining should not be discouraged by employers of labor, since the denial of this right will eventually lead to misunderstandings, suspicion and consequent disorder and violence. The failure to recognize the right of collective bargaining was, in the judgment of your committee, to some extent responsible for the labor disturbance in northern Minnesota."

The minority report says:

"The investigation brought out the fact that the mining and lumbering interests have always refused to deal collectively with their employes. We believe that the principle of collective bargaining should not be discouraged by employers of labor, since the denial of this right of collective bargaining was, in our judgment, responsible for the periodical labor disturbances in northern Minnesota to a large degree."

UNIONISM HELPS UNORGANIZED.

Columbus, Ohio, March 31.—The Columbus Railway, Power and Light company has announced a new wage scale, based upon the following period service:

First three months, increased from 21 to 22 cents per hour; next nine months, 23½ to 24½; second year, 25½ to 26; third year, 26 to 27; fourth year, 26½ to 27½; fifth year, 27 to 28; sixth year, 28 to 28½; seventh year, 28 to 29; eighth year, 28½ to 29½; ninth year, 28½ to 29½; after ninth year, 29 to 30.

Commenting on these gains the Labor News says:

"The raise comes not because the men who will receive it were asking for it, or had the nerve to ask for it; it comes to them in the fact that organized labor in Columbus is receiving advances in other fields of labor, is making a showing in organization, and the contrast between the condition of organized labor and the poor dupes working for the company was so great that the company was forced to do something to retain its few men who are effective, and to keep quiet the poor sticks that would remain at any wage."

MORE MONEY FOR COSSACKS.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 31.—Ignoring the protest of organized labor, the state senate has passed a bill to enlarge the state police force, known as the cossacks, and increase the pay of its members. The bill provides for 12 additional corporals and 30 privates, making the total of officers and men of all grades, 232 men. The enlargement, if authorized by law, will be the first since the cossacks were created in 1905.

Albany, N. Y., March 31.—The state senate has passed the cossack bill by a vote of 26 to 24. Senator Mills, who introduced the bill, and who also favors compulsory health insurance for low-wage workers, insisted that the cossacks are only intended for rural communities. Trade unionists refuse to take this sleeping powder.

WANT ANTI-BANNER LAW.

Portland, Ore., March 31.—The chamber of commerce urges the adoption of an ordinance prohibiting banner carrying by unionists. Under this act it would be illegal to carry or display any information on a banner, sign, transparency, writing, printing, dodger, card, notice, sticker, button or sash "which by its terms or appearance, directly or indirectly, induces or attempts to induce others not to buy from, sell to, or have dealings with any designated person or persons doing business in the city of Portland."

The advocates of this legislation failed to secure the passage of a similar law by the last legislature.

STOP WATCH PLANS WRONG.

Lafayette, Ind., March 31.—Efficiency does not mean speed contests, writes Editor Conway of the Retail Clerks' International Advocate.

"Efficiency can never be assured by means of the stop watch nor the driving tactics of a hired master, but will be the spontaneous result of suitable environment and a protective wage. The correct interpretation of efficiency is the knowledge or dexterity to satisfactorily perform a given task, and this can never be accomplished through stop watch methods which imply a contest, which may, in its final analysis, spell anything but true efficiency."

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT ENDED.

Jefferson City, Mo., March 31.—Both branches of the state legislature have passed a bill abolishing capital punishment.

Harrisburg, Pa., March 31.—The state senate has voted to substitute life imprisonment for death as a penalty for first-degree murder. One of the strongest advocates of this legislation was Warden Francies of the western penitentiary, where all the murderers in this state are electrocuted.

WIN, DESPITE INJUNCTION.

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 31.—The Electrical Workers' union has won its strike against the Terrell-Hedges company, despite an injunction, which is now dismissed. The company will establish the eight-hour day, which shall start when employes report at the shop and not after they are sent from the shop to jobs in various sections of the city. The company agrees to reinstate all strikers and conduct a union shop.

TO URGE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Kansas City, Mo., March 31.—At a meeting of division No. 1 of the railroad employes' department, A. F. of L., comprising all territory west of Chicago, it was voted to authorize federations on various railroad systems to proceed in their own way and negotiate for an eight-hour day and a 10 per cent wage increase.

TEXTILE WORKERS RAISE WAGES

Baltimore, March 31.—Textile Workers' union No. 277 has signed an agreement with Hampden mill owners. Wages are increased 12 1-2 per cent.